

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UN CONFERENCE ON THE REPRESENTATION OF STATES IN THEIR
RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (RSIO)--
OBSERVER DELEGATIONS

1. SOVIETS AND OTHER BLOC MEMBERS ON FEB. 19
ATTEMPTED TO FORCE CONSIDERATION OF ANNEX (OBSERVER
DELS) ALONG WITH PART III (DELEGATIONS) OF ILC
DRAFT. IN WEO DISCUSSION FEB. 20 US DEL ARGUED
FOR RESISTANCE TO THIS MOVE ON PROCEDURAL AND
SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS WITH EXCEPTION OF SWISS,
AND TURKS, WEO MEMBERS AGREED THAT MERGER OF
TWO SECTIONS WOULD TEND TO SLOW DOWN WORK OF
COMMITTEE AND GENERATE CONFUSION. FURTHERMORE,
MOST APPEARED FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH OUR ARGUMENT
THAT ANNEX WAS POSSIBLY NOT NECESSARY AS COVERING
ONLY VERY EXCEPTIONAL CASES.

2. CHAIRMAN NETTEL ANNOUNCED FEB. 19 HIS RULING,
AFTER CONSULTATION WITH CONFERENCE PRESIDENT
SETTE CAMARA, THAT QUESTION HAD TO BE DECIDED BY
GENERAL COMMITTEE AND THEN BY PLENARY FIRST.
HOWEVER, IN GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING FEB. 20
POSITIONS REMAINED SHARPLY DIVIDED. IN PLENARY
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DEBATE LINES WERE DRAWN ALONG EAST-WEST BASIS.

SOVIETS FINALLY OFFERED SO-CALLED COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD HAVE COMMITTEE CONSIDER PART III AND QUOTE WHERE POSSIBLE UNQUOTE ANNEX. US DEL STRONGLY CONTESTED THIS MOVE AS DESIGNED TO SOW EVEN MORE CONFUSION AND NOTED THAT HIS DEL HAD QUESTIONS ABOUT NECESSITY FOR ENTIRE ANNEX. SOVIET PROPOSAL WAS ADOPTED BY PLENARY BY VOTE OF 32 (SOVBLOC, SWITZERLAND, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, TURKEY, KUWAIT)-22(US)-10.

3. IN COMMITTEE OF WHOLE, DISCUSSION ON MEANING OF DECISION CONTINUED SINCE CHAIRMAN PROPOSED TIME LIMIT FOR SUBMISSION WRITTEN AMENDMENTS TO COVER ARTICLES 58 TO 65 AND CORRESPONDING ARTICLES IN ANNEX WHERE A DEL BELIEVED JOINT CONSIDERATION APPROPRIATE. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION AND APPEAL BY NETHERLANDS DEL FOR MORE TIME TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS, VOTE WAS TAKEN ON DUTCH CHALLENGE TO CHAIRMAN'S RULING AND LOST BY VOTE OF 15(US)-21(SOVBLOC)-22.

CHAIRMAN NETTEL HOWEVER ESSENTIALLY UNDERCUT SOVIET MANEUVERS BY DECIDING THAT AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX PORTIONS CORRESPONDING TO ARTICLES 42 THROUGH 58 WERE NOT NECESSARY SINCE HE HAD EARLIER CLOSED DEADLINE ON THESE FOR PART III.

4. COMMENT- SOVIETS ARE PLAYING GAME IN AREA IN WHICH THEY KNOW THAT THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT VOTES I.E. QUESTION OF OBSERVERS. SWISS AND HOLY SEE ARE OBVIOUSLY FAVORABLE TO ALL DECISIONS WHICH ENLARGE ON P&I AFFECTING OBSERVERS. ARABS AND AFRICANS APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT SUCH DECISIONS MIGHT BENEFIT NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS EVEN THOUGH (SO FAR) REFERENCES TO OBSERVERS REFERS ONLY TO STATES. HOWEVER, SOVIET MANEUVER HAS SO COMPLICATED PRESENT PROCEDURES, THAT IT MAY SERVE AGAINST THEIR APPARENT INTERESTS, NAMELY: THE CONFERENCE MAY NOW BE IN A POORER POSITION THEN BEFORE TO CONCLUDE ITS WORK IN THE ALLOTTED TIME. END COMMENT. HUMES
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